

Newsbrief

PUBLIC WORKS AWARDS

The City walked away with numerous awards as part of the Southern California Chapter of the American Public Works Association's 8th annual Awards Luncheon Dec. 6.

Sanitation won awards for two Projects of the Year, the first the Sewer Science Resource Video program, and the second, its Project Management Guidelines Manual.

The Department also won for its National Public Works Week promotions.

The projects were among 37 that were awarded at the ceremony.

"Sewer Science Resource Videos were developed to foster environmental awareness among students and teachers in the Los Angeles Unified School District," said Sanitation Bureau Senior Environmental Engineer Michael Simpson, Project Manager for both projects. "A teacher's Resource Video complements instructions in the Sewer Science Resource Manual and guides teachers and mentors on how to prepare and present the Sewer Science Education Program," he said. "The video shows and explains in detail the operations of wastewater treatment processes."

In 2005, the Bureau of Sanitation initiated plans to improve business efficiency and project management capabilities that eventually became its first set of Project Management Guidelines (PMGs), now recognized as a solution for improvement of business practices. "The PMG started as an educational program that provided project management training to 120 employees," Simpson said. "It has evolved into a critical component of the Bureau's overall knowledge retention strategy and addresses the impacts of an aging workforce," added Bureau Director Enrique C. Zaldivar.

The Board of Public Works Public Affairs Office (PAO) coordinated several National Public Works Week activities throughout the week, May 20-26. Among these was *Public Works LIVE, A Parade of Talents*. "This first-ever talent show featured six Public Works employees singing and playing instruments during a lunch hour event," said Cora Jackson-Fossett, Board of Public Works Public Affairs Director. "City Council, Public Works Commissioners and Bureau Directors recognized them and presented certificates to more than 60 Public Works employees for significant contributions to operations and work programs."

A major outreach goal of Public Works Week 2007 was to reach the student population of Los Angeles, in part, through facility tours, and neighborhood cleanup programs. "PAO coordinated a student tour of a newly constructed fire station, a project of the department's Bureaus of Engineering and Contract Administration," Jackson-Fossett said. "PAO also coordinated participation of several schools in Ocean Day, held at Dockweiler State Beach." The Public Affairs Office also coordinated a sanitation yard open house, a tree presentation and street lighting demonstration.

Congratulations to Public Works for these great honors.

Go to Disneyland!

Discount tickets at the Club Store.

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New Airport Police Chief



Airport Police Chief George Centeno



■ **George Centeno sworn in as head of Airport Police for all four City Airports. Four other leaders sworn in, too.**

Story and photos courtesy Sgt. Jim Holcomb, Airport Police Public Information Officer

AIRPORTS — George R. Centeno was sworn in as Chief of Police of the Airport Police Division of Airports Dec. 7.

He was sworn in by Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa in a ceremony at the Flight Path Learning Center and Museum in LAX's Imperial Terminal.

Four members of the division's executive command staff were also sworn in. The new appointees will be responsible for law enforcement and security at the City's four airports: Los Angeles International (LAX), LA/Ontario International (ONT), LA/Palmdale Regional (PMD) and Van Nuys (VNY) general aviation.

The mayor swore in Centeno as the sixth chief of Airport Police since the force was established in 1946. Centeno joined the Airport Police Division as an assistant chief of police last February. He is a retired lieutenant with 28 years of service with the Santa Monica Police Department, where he commanded a number of divisions including Special Enforcement, Traffic Enforcement, Internal Affairs, Office of Operations, and the Special Policing District. He is a decorated police officer, having received the department's Medal of Courage and Life-Saving Medal. Chief Centeno received his Bachelor of arts degree from California State University, Northridge, and is a graduate of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Va.

"The appointment of Chief George Centeno and the new executive command team exemplifies our commitment to build a world-class airport police organization for the protection of our 68 million passengers who fly annually through the airports owned and operated by the City of Los Angeles," Villaraigosa said.

"Our core business is to run our four airports safely and efficiently," said Airports Executive Director Gina Marie Lindsey. "Public safety is

our number one priority and the appointments of Chief Centeno and the executive command staff will help us continue to meet that goal."

The Airport Police Division's executive command staff reports to James T. Butts Jr., Deputy Executive Director of Law Enforcement and Protection Services, Airports. Butts said, "Chief Centeno is a proven law enforcement professional and valuable addition to our police executive team at Los Angeles World Airports. His training and experience in the area of incident management and operations has already improved the response and recovery protocols used in airport emergencies at our four airports."

Mayor Villaraigosa also swore-in four other Airport Police executive command staff members. They are:

The Airport Police Division is the fourth largest law enforcement agency in Los Angeles County, with more than 1,200 law enforcement, security and staff personnel. It is considered a leader among U.S. airports for implementation of new technology-derived security measures that include the use of artificial intelligence software to randomize vehicle checkpoint deployments. Airport Police officers serve as instructors for law enforcement personnel from other California airports in POST-certified (Police Officers Standards and Training) aviation peace officers training course. The Airport Police Division, in partnership with the Los Angeles Police Department, also has the largest number of bomb-detection canines among U.S. airports. Airport Police officers undergo training at the Los Angeles Police Academy and receive additional training specific to aviation-related law enforcement.

FRANK FABREGA
Assistant Chief for Traffic and Security Operations



Frank Fabrega, Assistant Chief for Traffic and Security Operations. Fabrega joined the Airport Police Division in February after 32 years with the Santa Monica Police Department in assignments that included SWAT team leader, and supervisor of K-9 officers, Office of Investigations, Recruitment and Training, community relations and media relations. He holds a Bachelor of science degree in criminal justice from California State University, Los Angeles, and a law degree from Ventura College of Law. He is a graduate of the Command College for Executive Leadership and the FBI National Academy.

ERROLL G. SOUTHERS
Assistant Chief for Intelligence and Emergency Operations



Erroll G. Southers, Assistant Chief for Intelligence and Emergency Operations, commanding the Homeland Security, Emergency Preparedness and Security Credentials Sections of the Airport Police Division. Southers joined the Airport Police last year and is former deputy director of the California Office of Homeland Security, responsible for critical infrastructure, counterterrorism policy and national pilot programs. He is a former FBI special agent assigned to counterterrorism foreign counterintelligence and SWAT. He is an adjunct professor of terrorism and public policy and an associate director of the National Homeland Security Center for Risk and Economic Analysis of Terrorism Events (CREATE) at the University of Southern California. Southers is a former Santa Monica police officer, a court-qualified gang expert, and a member of the Rio Hondo Police Academy faculty. He is a senior fellow of the UCLA School of Public Affairs and a Next Generation Fellow of the American Assembly at Columbia University. He earned a Bachelor of arts degree from Brown University and a Master of public administration degree from USC, where he is a doctoral candidate.

WILLIAM THOMPSON
Executive Assistant Chief of Administrative Services



William Thompson, Executive Assistant Chief of Administrative Services. Thompson served 34 years with the Inglewood Police Department in assignments ranging from patrol, K-9, motor, SWAT, internal affairs and robbery-homicide, and last commanded the Traffic Division. Along with his police duties, Thompson also served as Inglewood's Emergency Preparedness Coordinator during the past 10 years. Thompson is a recipient of Inglewood Police's Medal of Valor. Chief Thompson earned a Bachelor of arts degree from Loyola Marymount University.

BRIAN A. WALKER
Deputy Chief of the Office of Operations



Brian A. Walker, a 16-year veteran with Airport Police Division, as Deputy Chief of the Office of Operations, overseeing police operations at all four City airports. Before this appointment, he was acting Chief of Police for two years after commanding the Patrol Services Section, responsible for 24-hour police and emergency operations at LAX. He served in increasingly responsible assignments in bike detail, patrol, crime suppression, internal affairs, background investigations, and planning and development. He graduated from the Rio Hondo Police Academy and has completed Police Officers Standards and Training (POST) management and leadership courses. Walker has received numerous departmental awards and commendations for incident command and leadership response during several high-profile events at LAX.

